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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Letter dated 24 October 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement of the Government of the Republic of Mali dated 22 October 2002 in response to the distressing events that have been taking place in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire since 19 September 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Cheickna **Keita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 October 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Government of the Republic of Mali

1. The distressing events that have been taking place in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire since 19 September 2002 have been and continue to be a matter of concern to the Government of Mali at the highest level.

2. In that context, the Government of Mali has spared no effort in the quest for a peaceful solution to the crisis. It has, moreover, taken measures to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced communities and the refugees.

3. The deterioration of the situation that has occurred recently has taken the form of violence, atrocities, disappearances and even the death of people within the Malian community living in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular in the Daloa region. In view of these atrocities, the Government of the Republic of Mali expresses its indignation and protests in the strongest terms to the Ivorian authorities.

4. The protection of the life and property of foreign communities, in particular Malian nationals, is a duty for the Ivorian Government which has subscribed to the corresponding commitments in the framework of the WAEMU and ECOWAS agreements. For its part, the Malian Government attaches the utmost importance to the safety of the Malian communities residing in Côte d'Ivoire and looks to the Ivorian authorities fully to investigate the events that have occurred in Daloa and elsewhere, and to take action against the perpetrators of such acts.

5. The Government of Mali requests the Ivorian authorities to take all essential measures for the protection and security of foreign communities, and of Malian citizens in particular, and of their property.

Bamako, 22 October 2002